

**REMARKS**

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 15, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 119-121 have been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found at least at Applicants' claims 1 and 46 and Figure 21. No new matter is added. No claims are hereby canceled; no claims are hereby added. Claims 111-113 have previously been withdrawn per Applicants' election of Group I drawn to a substrate bonding device (claims 1-110 readable thereon) in the Response to Election of Species Requirement and Second Preliminary Amendment of September 27, 2004. Claims 16, 45, 75, 98 and 99 have previously been canceled. The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-15, 17-33, 35-39, 41-44, 46-63, 65-69, 71-74, 76-86, 88-92, 94-97, 101-105 and 107-118 are all allowed. The Examiner is thanked for the indication of said allowable claims. Claims 34, 40, 64, 70, 87, 93, 100 and 106 have all been indicated as withdrawn. However, these claims depend either directly or indirectly upon claims that have been indicated as allowable and thus Applicants' respectfully assert that claims 34, 40, 64, 70, 87, 93, 100 and 106 should be allowed as well. The Examiner is requested to indicate claims 34, 40, 64, 70, 87, 93, 100 and 106 as allowed in the next Office Action. Accordingly, claims 1-121 remain pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 119 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Japanese Laid Open Patent Application Publication 2001-356353 (to Satoshi et al.)(hereinafter "Satoshi"). Claim 120 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Satoshi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,306,380 (to Hiroki)(hereinafter "Hiroki"). Claim 121 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Satoshi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,173 (to Nakagomi et al.)(hereinafter "Nakagomi").

The rejection of claim 119 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 119 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 119 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “interlocking means substantially provided to the chamber units for coupling the upper chamber unit to the lower chamber unit and; a loader and an unloader located at substantially opposite sides of the bonding device for substantially simultaneous processing of substrates.” None of the cited references including, Satoshi, teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claim 119 is allowable.

The rejection of claim 120 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 120 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 120 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a case for enclosing the upper and lower chamber units; wherein the case includes a transparent material, wherein an inside of the substrate bonding device is observable from outside the case through the transparent material and; a loader and an unloader located at substantially opposite sides of the bonding device for substantially simultaneous processing of substrates.” None of the cited references including, Satoshi and Hiroki, singly or in any combination, teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claim 120 is allowable.

The rejection of claim 121 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 121 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 121 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “spraying means arranged substantially along side portions of one of the upper and lower chamber units for spraying gas toward side portions of the other one of the upper and lower chamber units; blowing means for blowing the gas through the spraying means; a first flow tube having a first end in communication with the spraying means and a second end in communication with the blowing means; interlocking means provided to the chamber units for substantially coupling the upper chamber unit to the lower

chamber unit; and a loader and an unloader located at substantially opposite sides of the bonding device for substantially simultaneous processing of substrates.” None of the cited references including, Satoshi, Hiroki and Nakagomi, singly or in any combination, teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claim 121 is allowable.

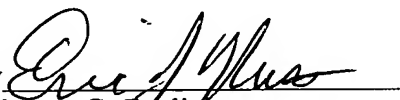
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application, including all pending claims, in condition for allowance, and early, favorable action is hereby respectfully solicited.

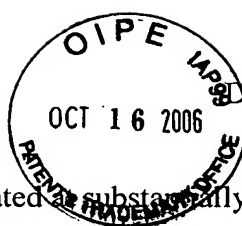
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: October 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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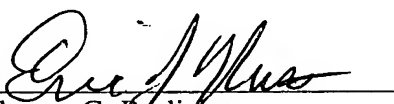
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